

## **Modelling Loadings and Fate of PCBs and PBDEs in the Georgia Basin**

*Patrick Shaw\*, Environment Canada, Vancouver, BC  
Peter Ross, Sophie Johannessen, Robie Macdonald,  
Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, BC  
Frank Gobas, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC*

Keywords: modelling, PCB, PBDE

While regulatory bans and voluntary disuse of PCBs in British Columbia and Washington State have resulted in greatly decreased environmental concentrations, there is still cause for concern in some areas. For example, in the Strait of Georgia high PCB concentrations have been measured in killer whales, resident seals and returning salmonids. PBDEs are similarly persistent and bioaccumulative, and unlike PCBs, their discharge remains relatively uncontrolled. We have embarked on a program to study the loading and fate of PCBs and PBDEs to the Georgia Basin. Though a combination of direct measurements and modelling we plan to develop a comprehensive picture of the loading, movement and fate of these contaminants in the region. The effort involves a wide range of partners and contributors, including federal, provincial and municipal governments, university researchers and First Nations.